

THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

DEVOTED TO

Commercial, Manufacturing, Mining and General News.

1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPY 5 CTS.

HALIFAX, N. S., OCTOBER 6, 1893

VOL. 10
No. 40

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THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 5 cents.

Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOT SO BAD AS IT SEEMED—In another column reference is made to the action of the Dominion Government in exacting a tax on the wife of Rev. Dr. McKay of Formosa. After our editorial wrath had been vented on the offenders it came out that the Government's action in this matter had been incorrectly reported, and that Dr. McKay and his wife were only detained for a time upon their arrival in Canada while the customs officials ascertained that the anti-Chinese law expressly exempted from the payment of a tax the Chinese wives of British subjects. That Dr. and Mrs. McKay were spared the indignity which the public were given to understand had been offered them, we, with all right-thinking Canadians, cannot but rejoice.

THE DUAL LANGUAGE.—At some future day Canadians will look back almost incredulously at the time when a dual language prevailed in Canada. In our own day it will scarcely be possible or advisable to enforce the use of the English language in the French districts, but the transition will come slowly and naturally. It will be a matter of curious history that Mr. Laurier, the Acadian Statesman, spoke to best advantage when he used the English language, that Mr. Blake, though far removed from being a French Canadian, found that on many occasions it was best to speak in *patois*, and that Sir John Thompson used either language indifferently, yet excellently, according to the make up of his audiences. In the meantime it is to be regretted that a number of hybrid words, which are neither French nor English, have insinuated themselves into our common speech.

PROFITABLE WORK.—There is something which is wholly satisfying to a business man in the recreation of country life, and of late many business men have been attracted to the country for business reasons. The possibilities opening before our Provincial fruit growers have induced many to enter upon the work, yet there is room for more. The figures which are compiled by our fruit growers would indicate enormous returns. Orchards which were set out in 1889 are already making money for their owners. In some sections in the Cornwallis Valley the crops of plums, crab-apples, etc., are estimated at \$600 per acre, leaving, when the cost of fertilizing, cultivating, spraying, gathering and marketing, is deducted, a profit of \$435 per acre. We hear much of the fruitful vineyards of France and of Southern Italy; but if these figures are correct, the plum and apple orchards of our Province must be much more productive and profitable.

WARRIORS ON WHEELS.—The bicycle has already been adopted, though whether officially or not we are not prepared to say, by the Forces of Great Britain and by the Military authorities in the United States, so that it is not surprising to hear that both France and Germany are thinking of following suit and introducing a cyclist corps into the various divisions of their armies. In the recent military manoeuvres around Metz the cyclists were well to the fore, and the riders who were armed with revolvers and bayonets, and who carried despatch bags, were much admired. It may be that there is to be more faith put in the safety of the bicycle than in the sometimes treacherous strength of horses.

ANOTHER FAKE.—The travelling tea merchant is the latest annoyance to our country farmers. The agent is by no means always a fake, but it so happens that a number of dishonest men are at the present time making the rounds of the country. The scheme, as worked by the sharpers, is to induce farmers to test sample tea and to order a chest like the sample to be delivered. The tea is then paid for in advance at what appears to be an extremely low rate. When the chest arrives the agent is far away, and the farmer, who finds that the chest is short weight and almost worthless in quality, is helpless to obtain redress. We advise our readers to beware of the travelling tea-man, unless he comes well accredited.

DIRTY AND IGNORANT.—Notwithstanding the terrible experience which the people of Hamburg had with cholera during the last year, there is still much ill-feeling between the poorer inhabitants of the city and the health officials. The people have not yet realised how closely allied are dirt and disease, and how fatal the drinking of foul water may become. There are now several cases of the disease in the city, but it has been almost impossible for the authorities to observe the proper precautions for preventing the spread of infection. Already a number of health officers have been ill-treated, and one officer has been clubbed to death by the enraged people. Such a manifestation of ignorance and brutality cannot be too deeply deplored.

ELEVEN SMART GESE—A farmer of Orange, Va., has not exactly chained the lightning, but he claims to have succeeded in performing a feat which is scarcely less marvellous. He has succeeded in utilizing wild goose power, and instead of spending his valuable time in chasing the proverbial bird, he has tamed and trained eleven wild geese so that they will, when harnessed to a waggon, draw him about his farm; or, when attached to a tin skiff, will waft him over the waters of his lake. This man must have a deep conviction that there are too many waste forces in nature, and that farm labor could be much simplified if only a proper amount of enthusiasm were devoted to the training of the brute and bird creation. We await his next achievement with interest.

MORE SHEEP.—Tourists travelling throughout Nova Scotia frequently ask why it is that sheep raising is so little practiced by our farmers. Many portions of the country seem almost to have been designed by nature for this purpose, and yet there are few farmers who care to own more than a small flock. There is a constant and growing demand for good lamb and mutton. The market is by no means confined to towns and cities of the Province, for already from other parts of the Dominion and from the neighboring Republic come demands for meat. If our farmers and especially those farmers who have stony hillsides on their farms would but turn sheep on the almost barren ground and erect a proper fold, they would find that the most unprofitable areas might be made to yield excellent dividends.

NOT THE LADIES ONLY—We recently held forth in an editorial note on the deeply implanted habit which so many housekeepers possess of hoarding away useless articles. On second thought, it occurs to us that the householder as well as the housekeeper has similar failings, and that it is but fair that he should be reminded of them. Perhaps the country houseowner is the greater sinner in this respect. About his grounds and yards may be found the useless relics of former days. Old agricultural implements, broken wheels, old boxes, etc., are allowed to encumber the ground and to spoil the appearance of the property. The tidy, trim air of "keptness" is ruined by the careless clutter, and no matter how well the ground about may be cultivated, the appearance of the whole is greatly depreciated. On many of our farms there stand little unsightly dwellings—the loghouse or the little building which did duty as a homestead. Our farmers are not sentimental men. They do not preserve these relics because of early association, but because of the habit of not destroying. It would be far better to remove these places and to use the ground on which they stand to better advantage. A homestead which has degenerated into a storehouse for rubbish is not long a thing of beauty, and the sooner it goes the better. A general clearing-up out of doors as well as in doors should be at least an annual occurrence.